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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/818,077	03/27/2001	Julie R. Bartholomew	1026-001	9777

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DOBRUSIN DARDEN THENNISCH & LORENZ PLLC
401 S OLD WOODWARD AVE
SUITE 311
BIRMINGHAM, MI 48009

EXAMINER

TRAN, KHOI H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3651

DATE MAILED: 08/14/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/818,077

Applicant(s)

BARTHOLOMEW ET AL.

Examiner

Khoi H Tran

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 June 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-5,9,36,37,40,48-50 and 52-61 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 9,36,37,40,48,50,52,54-59 and 61 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-5,49,53 and 60 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 17.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

KHOI H. TRAN**PRIMARY EXAMINER**

DETAILED ACTION

1. Newly amended claims directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed for the following reasons: the introduction of the remotely packaged containers and their specifics has directed the new claimed combination toward an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed.

Since applicant has received an action on the merits for the originally presented invention, this invention has been constructively elected by original presentation for prosecution on the merits. Accordingly, claims 9, 36, 37, 40, 48, 50, 52, 54-56, 58, 59, and 61 have been withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. See 37 CFR 1.142(b) and MPEP § 821.03.

2. Claim 57 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being improperly dependent upon a canceled claim 51.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Line 1, "said personal viewing station" lacks antecedent basis.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1, 4, 5, 53, and 60 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown 5,903,465 in view of Rigg et al. 5,785,960 and in view of Krauss et al. 4,871,262.

Brown '465 discloses an automated point-of-sale nail polish dispensing system (column 3, line 7) per claimed invention. Brown's nail polish dispensing system (figure 1) dispenses nail polish into a package (8) and mixing it via a mixing mechanism (16). Brown's system includes a logic controller or computer (26) to receive operating instructions concerning an optimum formula from a user interface device that measures a customer's specific skin requirements (column 3, lines 50-54). The dispensing system includes a plurality of chambers (figures 2 and 3) each having an outlet with a nozzle 10. Effects such as matte or dewy finish could be added to a dispensing formula. However, Brown '465 does not explicitly mention the retrieving of recipe information about a color selection for dispensing upon an entry of a particular color selection by said user interface device. Brown '465 is also silent as to the specifics of a housing that permits viewing of the ingredient containers.

Rigg '960 discloses a customized dermatological product dispensing system. Rigg '960 uses a spectrophotometer/colorimeter to measure a customer's skin. The skin color information is then calculated by a computer 6/10 for an optimal matching cosmetic formula. The formula is the recipe for controlling the dispensing action of the cosmetic color dispensers. Fragrances or moisturizers effects could also be added to

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the recipe. User's personal information and tailored formula are kept in a database for possible refills or possible subsequent adjustment. Rigg '960 uses unique identifiers such as bar codes or social security numbers for quick customer information access.

It would have been obvious for a person with ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to have provided a spectrophotometer/colorimeter system to Brown's dispensing system as desired by Brown '465 (column 3, line 52-54), and taught by Rigg '960. Said spectrophotometer/colorimeter provides an optimal personalized formula or recipe to the computer for the controlling of the dispensing processes.

Kraus '262 discloses of an automated customized cosmetic dispensing system. The housing of the dispensing system comprises windows for the viewing of ingredient containers. Kraus teaches that the windows enable an operator to observe the available level of ingredient in each container.

It would have been obvious for a person with ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to have provided Brown's dispensing housing (2) with viewing windows so that the level of the ingredient containers can be observed by an operator, as taught by Kraus '262. Such observation will allow for the timely replacement of emptied ingredient containers.

In regards to claim 53, it is obvious that Brown's modified system is capable of dispensing lip gloss since it anticipates all claimed structural elements.

7. Claims 3, as best understood, is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown 5,903,465 in view of Rigg et al. 5,785,960, in view of Kraus et

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al. 4,871,262 as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Lombardi et al.

6,177,093.

Brown '465 modified system discloses all elements per claimed invention as explained in paragraph 6 above. However, it lacks a personal viewing station and a camera for interfacing with a customer in providing virtual feedback to a user.

Lombardi '093 discloses a customized cosmetic system at a point of sale. The system comprises a camera (70, figure 9), a spectrophotometer, and computer (74) having a viewing screen (76). Said system provides virtual feed back as to how a customer would look with different colored cosmetic products (paragraph bridging columns 5 and 6). Such feature also enables a customer to modify a color that is best suited for each individual's preferences.

It would have been obvious for a person with ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to have provided to Brown '465 customized cosmetic system with such camera and computer system, as taught by Lombardi '093, because it provides visual feed back as to how a customer would look with different colored cosmetic products. Such feature also enables a customer to modify a color that is best suited for each individual's preferences.

8. Claims 1, 4, 5, 53, and 60 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Murray et al. 6,510,366 in view of Rigg et al. 5,785,960 and in view of Krauss et al. 4,871,262.

Murray '366 discloses an automated point-of-sale nail polish dispensing system per claimed invention. Murray's nail polish dispensing system (figure 1) dispenses nail

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polish into a package (8) and mixing it via a mixing mechanism (16). Murray's system includes a logic controller or computer (26) to receive operating instructions concerning an optimum formula from a user interface device that measures a customer's specific skin requirements (column 5, lines 15-26). The dispensing system includes a plurality of chambers (figures 1 and 2) each having an outlet with a nozzle 10. Effects such as matte or dewy finish could be added to a dispensing formula. However, Murray '366 does not explicitly mention the retrieving of recipe information about a color selection for dispensing upon an entry of a particular color selection by said user interface device. Murray '366 is also silent as to the specifics of a housing that permits viewing of the ingredient containers.

Rigg '960 discloses a customized dermatological product dispensing system as explained in paragraph 6 above.

It would have been obvious for a person with ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to have provided a spectrophotometer/colorimeter system to Brown's dispensing system as desired by Murray '366, and taught by Rigg '960. Said spectrophotometer/colorimeter provides an optimal personalized formula or recipe to the computer for the controlling of the dispensing processes.

Kraus '262 discloses of an automated customized cosmetic dispensing system as explained in paragraph 6 above.

It would have been obvious for a person with ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to have provided Murray's dispensing housing with viewing windows so that the level of the ingredient containers can be observed by an operator,

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as taught by Kraus '262. Such observation will allow for the timely replacement of emptied ingredient containers.

In regards to claim 53, it is obvious that Murray's modified system is capable of dispensing lip gloss since it anticipates all claimed structural elements.

9. Claims 3, as best understood, is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Murray et al. 6,510,366 in view of Rigg et al. 5,785,960, in view of Kraus et al. 4,871,262 as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Lombardi et al. 6,177,093.

Murray '366 modified system discloses all elements per claimed invention as explained in paragraph 8 above. However, it lacks a personal viewing station and a camera for interfacing with a customer in providing virtual feedback to a user.

Lombardi '093 discloses a customized cosmetic system at a point of sale. The system comprises a camera (70, figure 9), a spectrophotometer, and computer (74) having a viewing screen (76). Said system provides virtual feed back as to how a customer would look with different colored cosmetic products (paragraph bridging columns 5 and 6). Such feature also enables a customer to modify a color that is best suited for each individual's preferences.

It would have been obvious for a person with ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to have provided to Murray '366 customized cosmetic system with such camera and computer system, as taught by Lombardi '093, because it provides visual feed back as to how a customer would look with different colored

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cosmetic products. Such feature also enables a customer to modify a color that is best suited for each individual's preferences.

10. Claims 1, 4, 5, 49, 53, and 60 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hellenberg 4,967,938 in view of Kraus et al. 4,871,262.

Hellenberg '938 discloses a single pod, automated customized liquid color dispensing system. The system includes a plurality of chambers radially disposed about a common axis. Each of said chambers has an outlet nozzle. The system comprises a computer 18 having a computer monitor for interacting with a customer to select a liquid formulation and communication information about a selection for use in controlling said dispensing system. Said computer is programmed such that the entry of a particular color selection into the computer will retrieve recipe information about the selection for dispensing to achieve the ultimate desired color. Said computer is further programmed to provide retail customer with an option of adding tinting effects to the liquid recipe. However, Hellenberg 's system is directed to a liquid paint dispensing environment instead of a liquid cosmetic environment. Nevertheless, it is obvious that such liquid paint dispensing system is applicable in a cosmetic environment, i.e. dispensing of liquid lip gloss, since Hellenberg' s system anticipates all claimed structural elements. Furthermore, it is conceivable that the paint form Hellenberg' s dispensing system could be used cosmetically, i.e. for painting nails.

Hellenberg' s system is also silent as to the specifics of the cover 38 permitting the viewing of the ingredient containers.

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Kraus '262 discloses of a customized liquid color dispensing system. The housing of the dispensing system comprises windows for the viewing of ingredient containers. Kraus teaches that the windows enable an operator to observe the available level of ingredient in each container.

It would have been obvious for a person with ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to have provided Hellenberg' s dispensing cover 38 with viewing windows so that the level of the ingredient containers can be observed by an operator, as taught by Kraus '262. Such observation will allow for the timely replacement of emptied ingredient containers.

Response to Arguments

11. Applicant's arguments with respect to the amended claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

However, Applicant's arguments filed on 06/27/2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argued that Kraus 4,871,262 "does not teach or suggest a structure that affords full automatic operation in a user interactive custom cosmetic dispensing system." Thus, Kraus '262 cannot be properly combined with the cited references to arrive at the claimed invention. However, Applicant has failed to identify which distinctive feature(s) in the claim language that would distinguish such "full" automatic characteristic of the claimed invention. Contrary to Applicant's belief, Murray 6,510,366 (column 1, lines 32-36,) has considered Kraus et al. 4,871,262 system to be an automatic cosmetic dispensing system.

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Conclusion

12. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

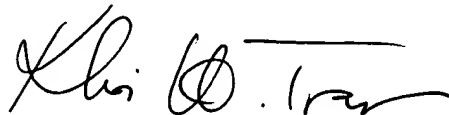
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Khoi H Tran whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher Ellis can be reached on (703) 308-1113. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-7687 for regular communications and 7033057687 for After Final communications.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Khoi H. Tran". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line extending from the end.

Khoi H Tran
Primary Examiner
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KHT
August 12, 2003